

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0603**

March 3, 2020

Governor Jared Polis  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

I appreciate the steps that you and your staff are taking to protect Coloradans from COVID-19. As the number of cases of the virus continue to rise across the United States, most experts anticipate that sustained human-to-human transmission of COVID-19 is inevitable. It is critical that our state has the infrastructure in place to respond to a worst case scenario.

Colorado's hospitals, clinics and departments of public health in rural and smaller communities will play a significant role in the state's response to COVID-19, therefore, I call on you to ensure these health systems receive robust resources to screen for and mitigate against the impacts of the virus. Each rural hospital, clinic and department of public health must be able to quickly refer a patient sample for testing with timely results, health workers must have the resources needed to protect themselves from the virus, and public health officials must have the ability to educate their communities on the symptoms of the virus, how members of the community can protect themselves from the virus and the steps they should take should they suspect they have been exposed to the virus.

I also ask that you continue to work to make sure rural communities know what resources may be available to them to establish the public health infrastructure they may need to thwart or address an outbreak of COVID-19. As federal resources flow to the state of Colorado, I trust you will work diligently to allocate those resources to all communities across the state. Through outreach we have done to hospitals and clinics throughout Colorado's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District we have received mostly positive feedback about communication and planning, but there are still instances where increased communication from federal and state agencies coordinating the COVID-19 response may be necessary. On a less positive note, we have heard from some providers that they are already seeing supply shortages due to the outbreak in China and resulting shipping delays. Several small providers have also stated they do not have enough respirators or masks for their staff and typically have a hard time getting an adequate supply from the state. These issues must be addressed, and I respectfully ask you to direct state agencies to distribute necessary resources to properly equip all of Colorado's providers to safely handle a potential outbreak.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you or your team need assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Tipton", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Scott R. Tipton  
Member of Congress

cc: Scott Bookman  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment COVID Incident Commander